

REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

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June and August 2019 were cooler and wetter than normal. July was warmer and slightly drier than normal. In Ithaca, in June, the average high temperature was 74.3° F, 1.7° below normal, the average low was 52.1°, 1.2° below normal, and the total precipitation was 5.47", 1.48" more than normal. The average high temperature in July was 81.7°, 1.8° above normal, the average low was 60.4°, 2.7° above normal, and the total precipitation was 3.72", 0.11" below normal. In August, the average high temperature was 77.7°, 0.9° below normal, the average low was 54.3°, 2.0° below normal, and the total precipitation was 4.81", 1.18" above normal.

Waterfowl were present in the Region in good numbers and diversity. Observers reported high numbers of Wood Ducks, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shovelers, Mallards, Green-winged Teal, and Double-crested Cormorants in August. Small numbers of Lesser Scaup, Red-breasted Mergansers, and Common Loons lingering into early June were nonetheless high summer counts for those species. Other lingerers from spring migration included Tundra Swan, Northern Pintail, Ring-necked Duck, Greater Scaup, Black Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, Bufflehead, and Common Goldeneye. Unusual species were a **Red-throated Loon** that Jessie Barry and Chris Wood saw on Cayuga Lake on 1 June, and a **Black-bellied Whistling Duck** that Carol Cedarholm found at SSt Park in Ithaca 17 June. Many observers were able to enjoy seeing this bird during its 10-day stay. Tim Lenz found two **Red-necked Grebes** at Lakefront Park on **20 July**. David Wheeler first reported an **American White Pelican** at Montezuma NWR in mid-August. Logan Kahle found an early **Eurasian Wigeon** at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge on 31 August.

Shorebird species reported in high numbers were Semipalmated Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, and Semipalmated Sandpiper in June, and American Golden-Plover and Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs in August. Greg Dashnau found a **Black-necked Stilt** in Montezuma NWR in early June. The stilt continued to be seen over the next three weeks. Wesley Hochachka found two **Red Knots** at Montezuma NWR on 2 June. They were last seen that afternoon.

High counts for Bonaparte's, Ring-billed, and Great Black-backed Gulls all occurred in August. Observers reported a high count of Common Terns in June, a high count of Black Terns in July, and a high count of Forster's Terns in August.

Waders reported in high numbers were Sandhill Cranes and Great Egrets, both in August and both at Montezuma NWR. Dave Kennedy found a **Glossy**

Ibis in early June and a **Snowy Egret** in late August at Montezuma NWR. Tim Lenz found the Region's first **White Ibis** at Montezuma NWR in late August.

For raptors, observers reported high counts of Turkey Vultures, Bald Eagles, and Peregrine Falcons. High counts were also reported for Red-headed, Red-bellied, Hairy, and Pileated Woodpeckers. Miscellaneous species with high counts included Mourning Dove, Horned Lark, White-breasted Nuthatch, and Marsh Wren. Steven Benedict discovered a singing **Sedge Wren** while doing a grassland bird survey at Montezuma NWR in late July. The bird continued there for a few days.

Nocturnally migrating Swainson's Thrushes over Northeast Ithaca on 31 August produced a summer high count for that species. The maximum counts for Hermit and Wood Thrushes, however, were low counts for those species. Observers reported high counts of Purple Finches and American Goldfinches. William Evans observed an **Evening Grosbeak** in early July in Newfield. Nita Irby also observed one in Dryden in mid-August. Estevao Santos and Chris Wood saw and recorded **Red Crossbills** in Summerhill State Forest in early June.

There were high counts for Eastern Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, and Song Sparrow. Michael Palermo found the Region's only **Clay-colored Sparrow**, in Hopewell. The growing population of Orchard Orioles in the Region yielded a high count at Salt Point Natural Area.

High counts for the Region's breeding species of warblers included Blackburnian, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Pine, and Prairie Warblers. High counts of transient species included Cape May, Blackpoll, and Wilson's Warblers. On 17 August, Gregg Dashnau was the first of several observers at Montezuma NWR to hear and identify the Region's only **Dickcissel**. The bird continued to give flyby calls and, rarely, sightings through the end of the season.

CONTRIBUTORS

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ABBREVIATIONS

CP – City Pier, ONTA; **CygL** – Cayuga L; **FLNF** – Finger Lakes National Forest; **LP** – Lakefront P; **MNWR** – Montezuma NWR; **NEI** – Northeast Ithaca; **RHPP** – Roy H P Preserve, TOMP; **SenL** – Seneca L; **SHSF** – Shindagin Hollow State Forest, TOMP; **SLSP** – Seneca L SP; **SSF** – Summerhill State Forest, CAYU; **StP** – SSt P, TOMP; **SW** – Sapsucker Woods, TOMP; **TDan** – T Danby, TOMP; **TVar** – T Varick, SENE; **TVE** – T Van Etten, CHEM.

WATERFOWL-HUMMINGBIRDS

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK:

StP 17-26 Jun (mob, ph).

Snow Goose: max 16 SLSP 2 Jun.

Mute Swan: MNWR 23 Jun; T Lodi SENE 5-18 Jul; Hornell 4-24 Aug; MNWR 15 Aug.

Tundra Swan: Horseheads Marsh CHEM thru 28 Jun (mob, ph).

Wood Duck: max 480 MNWR 25 Aug (JMc!), high.

Blue-winged Teal: max 60 MNWR 25 Aug (mob!), high.

Northern Shoveler: max 55 MNWR 25 Aug (mob), high.

Eurasian Wigeon: MNWR 31 Aug (LK!), early.

Mallard: max 2000 MNWR 8 Aug (TLe); 2000 MNWR 22 Aug (JMc, LS), high.

Northern Pintail: last 4 MNWR 15 Jun, early; arr 8 MNWR 9 Aug.

Green-winged Teal: max 300 MNWR 31 Aug (mob), high.

Ring-necked Duck: StP 9 Jun; MNWR 19 Aug.

Greater Scaup: SenL 9 Jun thru (mob).

Lesser Scaup: max 5 LP SENE 2 Jun (TLe!), high.

BLACK SCOTER (R3): last CygL, TVar 1 Jun (JMc, LS!).

Long-tailed Duck: last CygL, TVar 1 Jun (JMc, LS).

Bufflehead: max 8 SLSP 2 Jun (TLe), high; 1-8 SLSP thru 20 Jul.

Common Goldeneye: last CygL, TVar 1 Jun; 2 LP SENE 20 Jul (TLe).

Hooded Merganser: max 11 Myers Pt TOMP 17 Jul (JMc), high.

Red-breasted Merganser: max 4 SenL SENE 7-8 Jun (DCz, ph), high.

RED-NECKED GREBE (R3): 2 LP SENE 20 Jul (TLe, ph).

Mourning Dove: 208 NEI 26 Aug (TSc!), high.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: max 9 MNWR 10 Aug, low.

RAILS-LARIDS

Sandhill Crane: max 25 MNWR 23 Aug (JBa, CW!), high.

BLACK-NECKED STILT: MNWR 5-23 Jun (mob, ph).

American Golden-Plover: arr MNWR 24 Aug; max 58 MNWR 31 Aug (mob!), high.

Semipalmated Plover: last 8 MNWR 5 Jun; max 100 MNWR 2 Jun (TLe), high; arr MNWR 22 Jul.

Killdeer: max 34 MNWR 3 Aug, low.

Upland Sandpiper: T Seneca Falls SENE 8 Jul.

Whimbrel: arr MNWR 29 Aug, late.

Ruddy Turnstone: last CP 3 Jun; MNWR 3 Jun; max 46 MNWR 2 Jun (WH!), high; arr MNWR 13 Aug.

Red Knot: 2 MNWR 2 Jun (mob, ph).

Stilt Sandpiper: arr MNWR 18 Jul; max 12 MNWR 29 Aug.

Sanderling: last MNWR 6 Jun; arr MNWR 5 Aug.

Dunlin: max 30 MNWR 1-2 Jun; last 3 T Tyre SENE 9 Jun; arr 6 MNWR 31 Aug.

Baird's Sandpiper: arr MNWR 18 Aug; max 2 MNWR 25 Aug.

Least Sandpiper: last 50 MNWR 3 Jun; arr MNWR 9 Jul; max 120 MNWR 25 Aug.

White-rumped Sandpiper: last MNWR 2 Jun; arr & max 7 MNWR 11 Aug.

Pectoral Sandpiper: arr MNWR 13 Jul; max 12 MNWR 31 Aug.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: last MNWR 11 Jun; max 1300 MNWR 3 Jun (TLe!), high; arr 3 MNWR 14 Jul.

Short-billed Dowitcher: arr CP 6 Jul (BHo), early; max 42 MNWR 25 Aug.

Long-billed Dowitcher: arr MNWR 2 Aug; max 5 MNWR 17 Aug.

Wilson's Snipe: last Goetchicus Preserve 5 Jun; arr 3 MNWR 15 Jul; max 21 MNWR 8 Aug.

Solitary Sandpiper: arr MNWR 30 Jun.

Lesser Yellowlegs: arr 2 MNWR 30 Jun; max 300 MNWR 19 Aug.

Greater Yellowlegs: arr MNWR 2 Jul; max 200 MNWR 25 Aug (mob), high.

Wilson's Phalarope: MNWR 17-19 Aug.

Red-necked Phalarope: 2 LP SENE 13 Aug.

Bonaparte's Gull: last 2 Paine's Creek mouth CAYU 8 Jun; SLSP 8 Jun; arr CygL SP 28 Jun (KBU, ph), early; max 8 Myers Pt TOMP 24 Aug (JMc, LS), high.

Laughing Gull: MNWR 16 Aug thru (mob, ph); SenL, Geneva 21 Aug (TLe!).

Ring-billed Gull: max 4000 LP SENE 24 Aug (TLe), high.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: StP 14-22 Jul (TLe, JMc, LS).

Great Black-backed Gull: max 15 LP ONTA 21 Aug (TLe), high.

Black Tern: max 48 MNWR 8 Jul (EZ), high.

Common Tern: max 11 LP SENE 2 Jun (TLe!), high.

Forster's Tern: 2 SenL, Geneva 17 Aug (TLe!); max 10 CP 28 Aug (KG, ph), high.

LOONS-FALCONS

Red-throated Loon: last Aurora High Banks CAYU 1 Jun (JBa, CW), late.

Common Loon: max 35 CygL, TVar 1 Jun (JMc, LS), high.

Double-crested Cormorant: max 750 Ithaca 24 Aug (DNi), high.

American White Pelican: 1-2 MNWR 16 Aug thru (mob, ph).

Great Egret: max 207 MNWR 23 Aug (JBa, CW!), high.

Snowy Egret: MNWR 21-24 Aug (mob, ph).

WHITE IBIS: MNWR 28 Aug (mob, ph).

Glossy Ibis: MNWR 2 Jun (DK, ph).

Turkey Vulture: max 105 Stevenson Rd compost piles TOMP 16 Aug (JMc), high.

Bald Eagle: max 34 MNWR 1 Jun (JMc, LS), high.

Red-headed Woodpecker: max 4 Trumansburg 12 Aug (JD, ph), high.

Red-bellied Woodpecker: max 11 Robert Treman SP 23 Jun (BGa), high.

Hairy Woodpecker: max 8 SHSF 11 Jun (JCu, WL, AS), high.

Pileated Woodpecker: max 6 TDan 14 Jul (MGi), high.
Peregrine Falcon: max 3 Finger Lakes Trail SCHU 23 Jul (CW!), high.

FLYCATCHERS-SNOW BUNTING

Olive-sided Flycatcher: last SW 4 Jun; arr TVE 14 Aug.
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: last 2 SW 6 Jun; arr Jim Schug Trail TOMP 10 Aug.
Yellow-throated Vireo: max 5 Owasco L Inlet CAYU 18 Jun, low.
Philadelphia Vireo: arr NEI 26 Aug.
Horned Lark: max 32 T Fayette SENE 8 Aug (TLe!), high.
White-breasted Nuthatch: max 10 TVE 10 Jul (JoCo), high.
Sedge Wren: MNWR 27 Jul-1 Aug (mob, rec).
Marsh Wren: max 62 MNWR Jun 1 (JMc!, LS), high.
Gray-cheeked Thrush: last 2 SW 4 Jun.
Swainson's Thrush: last FLNF SCHU 8 Jun (JBa, CW!), late; arr NEI 18 Aug; max 10 NEI 31 Aug (JMc), high, nocturnal.
Hermit Thrush: max 5 SW 22 Jun; 5 Beaver Dams 4 Jul; 5 T Brooktondale TOMP 4 Aug, low.
Wood Thrush: max 8 TDan 29 Aug, low.
Evening Grosbeak: T Newfield TOMP 2-4 Jul (WEv); T Dryden TOMP 18 Aug (NI).
Purple Finch: max 14 TVE 24 Jun (JoCo); 14 TVE 11-12 Jul (JoCo), high.
Red Crossbill: 5 SSF 9 Jun (ES, CW, rec); SSF 15 Jun (AK, ST, rec).
Pine Siskin: NEI 1 Jun; FLNF SCHU 12 Jun; 2 Addison 15 Jun; RHPP 22 Jun.
American Goldfinch: max 85 MNWR 25 Aug (NK, GL), high.

NEW WORLD SPARROWS-CARDINALIDS

Eastern Towhee: max 14 Long Pt SP 3 Aug (BS), high.
Clay-colored Sparrow: 1-2 T Hopewell ONTA 8-23 Jun (MiP, rec).
Savannah Sparrow: max 45 T Seneca Falls SENE 19 Jun (DSh, MT), high.
Song Sparrow: max 68 MNWR 4 Jul (DDa!), high.

White-throated Sparrow: 2 East Ithaca Recreation Way 1 Jun; 1-2 SSF 14 Jun thru; 2 RHPP 22 Jun; 2 FLNF SCHU 2 Jul; 2 T Groton TOMP 15 Jul; 2 TDan 18 Jul.

Orchard Oriole: max 8 Salt Pt Natural Area 16 Jul (JMc!), high.

Ovenbird: max 18 TVE 6 Jun; 18 SHSF 11 Jun, low.

Worm-eating Warbler: Taughannock Falls SP 6 Jul; Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve 14 Jul.

Louisiana Waterthrush: max 5 Cayuta Gulf SCHU 5 Jun; last Watkins Glen SP 13 Aug.

Golden-winged Warbler: NEI 25 Aug (TSc!).

"Brewster's" Warbler: The Boyd Farm CHEM 31 Aug (BO!, JO).

"Lawrence's" Warbler: FLNF SCHU 12 Jun (mob, ph, rec).

Mourning Warbler: max 5 Arnot Forest TOMP 1 Jun, low.

Cape May Warbler: arr Monkey Run TOMP 26 Aug; max 6 RHPP 30 Aug (JMc), high.

Bay-breasted Warbler: arr SW 23 Aug.

Blackburnian Warbler: max 15 Hammond Hill State Forest TOMP 14 Jul (JMc, LS), high.

Yellow Warbler: max 50 MNWR 7 Jun (DSh, MT), high.

Chestnut-sided Warbler: max 20 Arnot Forest TOMP 7 Jun (JMc, LS), high.

Blackpoll Warbler: max 4 T Aurelius CAYU 1 Jun (JBa, CW), high; last Owasco L Inlet CAYU 6 Jun; arr The Boyd Farm CHEM 31 Aug.

Pine Warbler: max 6 TVE 24 Jun (JoCo); 6 TVE 16 Jul (JoCo), high.

Yellow-rumped Warbler: max 4 SSF 7 Jul, low.

Prairie Warbler: max 7 Lindsay-Parsons Biodiversity Preserve TOMP 4 Jun (AP), high.

Wilson's Warbler: last Durland Preserve TOMP 2 Jun; arr RHPP 17 Aug (Harikrishnan CP, Matthew D Medler!), early; max 2 TVE 29 Aug (JoCo), high.

Scarlet Tanager: max 7 SHSF 12 Jul; 7 Hammond Hill State Forest TOMP 14 Jul, low.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: max 10 TVE 15 Jun-13 Jul, low.

Dickcissel: MNWR 17 Aug thru (mob, ph).